

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, lines 8-21, as follows:

--Copolymers that may be used in this invention are preferably selected from the group consisting of linear, radial, perfect and partially randomized block copolymers corresponding to funeral formula (I)

~~[B(B/S)S_ij)]_Z~~ (I)

[(B- (B/S)_i-S)_j]_k-Z (I)

| wherein i and j and k are integers an integer equal to or greater than 1;

| Z is a residue of a coupling agent or a termination agent;

S is a vinyl aromatic monomer; and

B is a conjugated diene;

and where the elastomeric portion (alkadiene) may be totally or partially hydrogenated. The S/B copolymer composition is from 10/90 to 90/10, preferably 20/80 to 80/20, and more preferably 30/70 to 40/60. Molecular weights of copolymer can be between the interval 100,000 to 450,000 g/mol. The molecular weight of the vinyl aromatic monomer-based polymer block ranges between the interval of 5,000 to 420,000 g/mol, preferably 30,000 to 120,000 g/mol, and the vinyl aromatic monomer block presents a polydispersity Mw/Mn

at the interval of 1.01 to 4. Copolymers with the afore-outlined molecular parameters are preferably obtained through anionic polymerization; but any other polymerization method may be indistinctly used and which leads to the formation of copolymers with the desired characteristics.--